

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method of treating or preventing an inflammatory disease or disorder comprising administering to an animal a therapeutically effective amount of a protein selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a protein whose sequence comprises amino acid residues 1 to 300 of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (b) a protein whose sequence comprises amino acid residues 30 to 300 of SEQ IDNO:2;
- (c) a protein whose sequence comprises amino acid residues 31 to 283 of SEQ IDNO:2;
- (d) a protein whose sequence comprises amino acid residues 31 to 300 of SEQ IDNO:2;
- (e) a protein whose sequence comprises the amino acid sequence of the full-length polypeptide encoded by the cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit Number 97810;
- (f) a protein whose sequence comprises the amino acid sequence of the mature form of the polypeptide encoded by the cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit Number 97810; and
- (g) a protein whose sequence comprises the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide encoded by the cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit Number 97810.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the animal is human.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the protein comprises a heterologous polypeptide.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the heterologous polypeptide is an immunoglobulin constant domain.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein the heterologous polypeptide is human serum albumin or a portion thereof.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the inflammatory disease or disorder is inflammatory bowel disease.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the inflammatory disease or disorder is encephalitis.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the inflammatory disease or disorder is atherosclerosis.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the inflammatory disease or disorder is psoriasis.

10. A method of treating or preventing inflammation comprising administering to an animal a therapeutically effective amount of a protein selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a protein whose sequence comprises amino acid residues 1 to 300 of SEQ ID NO:2;

(b) a protein whose sequence comprises amino acid residues 30 to 300 of SEQ IDNO:2;

(c) a protein whose sequence comprises amino acid residues 31 to 283 of SEQ IDNO:2;

(d) a protein whose sequence comprises amino acid residues 31 to 300 of SEQ IDNO:2;

(e) a protein whose sequence comprises the amino acid sequence of the full-length polypeptide encoded by the cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit Number 97810;

(f) a protein whose sequence comprises the amino acid sequence of the mature form of the polypeptide encoded by the cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit Number 97810; and

(g) a protein whose sequence comprises the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide encoded by the cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit Number 97810.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the animal is human.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein the protein comprises a heterologous polypeptide.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the heterologous polypeptide is an immunoglobulin constant domain.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein the heterologous polypeptide is human serum albumin or a portion thereof.

15. A method of treating or preventing an autoimmune disease or disorder comprising administering to an animal a therapeutically effective amount of a protein selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a protein whose sequence comprises amino acid residues 1 to 300 of SEQ ID NO:2;

(b) a protein whose sequence comprises amino acid residues 30 to 300 of SEQ IDNO:2;

(c) a protein whose sequence comprises amino acid residues 31 to 283 of SEQ IDNO:2;

(d) a protein whose sequence comprises amino acid residues 31 to 300 of SEQ IDNO:2;

(e) a protein whose sequence comprises the amino acid sequence of the full-length polypeptide encoded by the cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit Number 97810;

(f) a protein whose sequence comprises the amino acid sequence of the mature form of the polypeptide encoded by the cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit Number 97810; and

(g) a protein whose sequence comprises the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide encoded by the cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit Number 97810.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the animal is human.

17. The method of claim 15 wherein the protein comprises a heterologous polypeptide.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the heterologous polypeptide is an immunoglobulin constant domain.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein the heterologous polypeptide is human serum albumin or a portion thereof.

20. The method of claim 15 wherein the autoimmune disease or disorder is systemic lupus erythematosus.

21. The method of claim 15 wherein the autoimmune disease or disorder is arthritis.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein the autoimmune disease or disorder is rheumatoid arthritis.

23. The method of claim 15 wherein the autoimmune disease or disorder is multiple sclerosis.

24. The method of claim 15 wherein the autoimmune disease or disorder is Crohn's disease.

25. The method of claim 15 wherein the autoimmune disease or disorder is autoimmune encephalitis.

26. A method of treating or preventing graft vs. host disease (GVHD) comprising administering to an animal a therapeutically effective amount of a protein selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a protein whose sequence comprises amino acid residues 1 to 300 of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (b) a protein whose sequence comprises amino acid residues 30 to 300 of SEQ IDNO:2;
- (c) a protein whose sequence comprises amino acid residues 31 to 283 of SEQ IDNO:2;
- (d) a protein whose sequence comprises amino acid residues 31 to 300 of SEQ IDNO:2;
- (e) a protein whose sequence comprises the amino acid sequence of the full-length polypeptide encoded by the cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit Number 97810;
- (f) a protein whose sequence comprises the amino acid sequence of the mature form of the polypeptide encoded by the cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit Number 97810; and
- (g) a protein whose sequence comprises the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide encoded by the cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit Number 97810.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein the animal is human.

28. The method of claim 26 wherein the protein comprises a heterologous polypeptide.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein the heterologous polypeptide is an immunoglobulin constant domain.

30. The method of claim 28 wherein the heterologous polypeptide is human serum albumin or a portion thereof.

31. A method of treating or preventing allergy or asthma comprising administering to an animal a therapeutically effective amount of a protein selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a protein whose sequence comprises amino acid residues 1 to 300 of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (b) a protein whose sequence comprises amino acid residues 30 to 300 of SEQ IDNO:2;
- (c) a protein whose sequence comprises amino acid residues 31 to 283 of SEQ IDNO:2;
- (d) a protein whose sequence comprises amino acid residues 31 to 300 of SEQ IDNO:2;
- (e) a protein whose sequence comprises the amino acid sequence of the full-length polypeptide encoded by the cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit Number 97810;
- (f) a protein whose sequence comprises the amino acid sequence of the mature form of the polypeptide encoded by the cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit Number 97810; and
- (g) a protein whose sequence comprises the amino acid sequence of the extracellular domain of the polypeptide encoded by the cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit Number 97810.

32. The method of claim 31 wherein the animal is human.

33. The method of claim 31 wherein the protein comprises a heterologous polypeptide.

34. The method of claim 33 wherein the heterologous polypeptide is an immunoglobulin constant domain.

35. The method of claim 33 wherein the heterologous polypeptide is human serum albumin or a portion thereof.

36. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polynucleotide encoding amino acids residues 1-41 of SEQ ID NO:2 fused to amino acid residues 48-195 of SEQ ID NO:31 fused to amino acid residues 186-192 of SEQ ID NO:2; and

(b) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising amino acids residues 1-294 of SEQ ID NO:2 fused to the amino acid sequence asparagine-isleucine-threonine.

37. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:28

(b) the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:32

(c) the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:33

38. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 36 or 37, which comprises a heterologous polynucleotide sequence.

39. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 38, wherein said heterologous nucleotide sequence encodes a polypeptide heterologous to SEQ ID NO:2.

40. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 39, wherein said heterologous polypeptide is an Fc domain of immunoglobulin.

41. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 39, wherein said heterologous polypeptide is human serum albumin.

42. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 39, wherein said heterologous polypeptide is glucoamylase.

43. A recombinant vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 36 or 37.

44. The recombinant vector of claim 43, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is operably associated with a regulatory element that controls expression of said nucleic acid molecule.

45. A recombinant host cell comprising the vector of claim 44.

46. A recombinant host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 45 operably associated with a regulatory element that controls expression of said nucleic acid molecule.

47. A method of producing a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of claim 36 or 37, comprising:

- (a) culturing a host cell comprising said nucleic acid molecule under conditions suitable to produce said polypeptide; and
- (b) recovering said polypeptide from the culture.

48. A composition comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 24 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.